

# Memo

**To:** Board of Managers  
**From:** Michael Younes, Director of Municipal Operations *my*  
**CC:** Shana Davis-Cook, Village Manager  
**Date:** 11/10/11  
**Re:** Update on Capital and Infrastructure Upgrade Projects

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Below please find an update on the various capital and infrastructure upgrade projects currently in-process and in the planning stage:

## **Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) Repaving:**

- The State Highway Administration's (SHA) District 3 office has informed the Village that Connecticut Avenue between the District Line and Taylor Street (where the 4-H Center is located) will be scheduled for repaving this upcoming summer 2012 and this week I attended a meeting to discuss the State's plans further.
- SHA stated that all roadway grinding and resurfacing operations will be conducted overnight during the 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. time period. I voiced concern over this due to the residential nature of the area pointing out that SHA recently repaved Brookville Road during the day. SHA did acknowledge that Brookville Road was repaved during the day and the potential disruption however, conceded that due to high traffic volumes grinding and repaving the roadway during the day is not possible.
- As part of this project the all of the existing storm drains and associated piping in the Village's portion of Connecticut Avenue will be cleaned out and seven (7) of which will be rebuilt.
- In an effort to address aesthetic concerns over the appearance of the median strip along Connecticut Avenue as part of the resurfacing project SHA will be removing the dirt and weeds in the strip and replacing the area with sod. At the meeting I voiced my concerns over this plan due to maintenance and sustainability issues going forward. SHA's Landscape Representative at the meeting shared the same concerns and will be returning to his Managers to discuss the plan further.

- Finally, as a requirement to repaint all of the cross walks along Connecticut Avenue due to the repaving I began the conversation with SHA about the possibility of installing a cross walk across Connecticut Avenue in front of the Village Hall. Past Village attempts to have a pedestrian triggered signal installed in the block have failed because pedestrian counts do not meet State standards. At a recent meeting the District Engineer in charge of reviewing such requests stated that the standards required for a cross walk were less strict and could be used as a starting point for a signal request. The District Engineer and I have agreed to speak about the Village's concerns further later this week and I hope to have further information for the Board at its meeting on Monday.

#### **Village-wide Sidewalk Replacements:**

- Village Sidewalk replacement contractor, Capitol Hardscapes, will be finishing sidewalk replacements along Oliver Street next week.
- Due to the increased inclement weather construction has been very slow.
- Overall, resident feedback on the project has been very positive and supportive.
- Notice has been sent out to the residents on Hesketh Street and Kirkside Drive (between Grafton and Hesketh Streets) to advise that sidewalk replacements will begin the week of November 21. Weather permitting the replacements should be completed by mid-January 2012.
- Once the sidewalk replacements along Hesketh Street and Kirkside Drive are completed Capitol Hardscapes will be proceeding based on the below schedule: (Primarily to avoid any conflicts with WSSC water main replacement crews.)
  - Magnolia Parkway: Mid-January 2012 – February 2012
  - Oxford Street: March 2012 – Mid-April 2012
  - Remaining Sidewalks on Connecticut Avenue: Mid-April 2012 – June 2012
- In an effort to provide timely and accurate information regarding the progress of this multi-year project a dedicated page has been created on the Village's website for project updates. Residents can access the page from the Village's homepage [www.chevy ChaseVillageMD.gov](http://www.chevy ChaseVillageMD.gov) by clicking on the "Village-wide Sidewalk Replacements" link under the "Quick Links" section and under the "News" section.

#### **Wisconsin Avenue Sidewalk**

- Last month representatives from the SHA District 3 and Headquarters held a public meeting in the Village Hall with residents of the Village and surrounding jurisdictions to discuss the preliminary sidewalk design and to receive community feedback.
- The public meeting was attended by approximately 25 people.
- The meeting was very spirited at times with both Village residents and non-residents voiced their opinions on the sidewalk

- As expected many of the Village residents in attendance were supportive of the sidewalk while a vocal minority of non-residents had strong opinions against the proposed sidewalk.
- SHA will also be looking into whether there would be available space to weave the sidewalk between trees while staying within its current right-of-way.
- As expected one Village resident voiced his strong opposition to the sidewalk due to property line concerns. According to SHA documents there is sufficient right-of-way.
- SHA has advised that a survey team is scheduled to be sent by the Thanksgiving Day Holiday to confirm property and right-of-way boundaries at 142 Hesketh Street.
- SHA representatives heard a number of concerns about the potential tree loss, the width of the sidewalk which is proposed to be 6 ft, lack of a greenstrip, no refuge for pedestrians from bikers or out of control vehicles, as well as strong opposition to not following the master plan for the corridor that calls for an 8 ft hiker/biker trail.
- Based on comments heard SHA will be reviewing and revising its plans where possible to address concerns over the next couple months, at which time a second public meeting will be held. Once a date for the next public meeting is scheduled and revised plans become available I will advise accordingly.
- Below is a brief summary of the my conversations with the abutting residents and anticipated property impacts:
  - 145 Grafton Street: Supportive of the sidewalk; 2-3 trees and 2 bushes would need removal, new driveway apron required
  - 142 Hesketh Street: Not Supportive due to property impacts (i.e. fence relocation); Initial SHA right-of-way documents and plan show that the fence has been installed within the State right-of-way.
  - 143 Hesketh Street: Very Supportive of the sidewalk and would use it; No property impacts.
  - 145 Hesketh Street: Very Supportive of the sidewalk and would welcome the some of the tree removals on Wisconsin Avenue which would allow their Leyland Cypress trees to grow more uniformly; No property impacts.
- If constructed the sidewalk would be fully funded by SHA.
- If all design and approvals are received in a timely fashion SHA anticipates construction on the sidewalk could begin as early as the late spring or early summer 2012.

#### **WSSC Water Main Replacements:**

- Water main replacement work will be wrapping up next week along Oxford Street and Broad Branch Road.
- As a result of the colder temperatures, WSSC will be transitioning to its winter replacement operations. This phase of the project will involve the relocation of water mains on portions of Cedar Parkway and all of Oliver Street.

- During relocation operations, WSSC leaves the current or active water main in place while a new main is installed in the roadway. Once the new main is installed service is transferred from the old main.
- Below is a tentative work schedule for the relocation operations (weather permitting):
  - Saw cutting on Cedar Parkway: December 5 – December 14
  - Installation of new water main on Cedar Parkway: December 6 – 22
  - Saw cutting on Oliver Street: December 9 – December 19
  - Installation of new water main on Oliver Street: December 19 – January 19, 2012
- Notice has been sent to residents in the affected areas advising them of the water relocation work.
- As we move into spring the remaining WSSC water main replacement operations will resume and notices will be sent advising residents on the remaining streets, which include:
  - West Kirke Street
  - Deadend of West Lenox Street
  - East Irving Street
  - East Kirke Street
  - Nevada Avenue and the East Melrose Street Circle
- Once all relocations and replacements are completed WSSC will restore the existing roadways and rights-of-way throughout the Village that were affected by the work.
- In the meantime, once a section of water main is replaced or relocated, WSSC will temporarily repair the trench in the roadway surface to ensure traffic can safely traverse. Throughout the winter I will be working with WSSC to ensure that any damages caused by snow plowing operations are repaired in a timely manner to ensure the affected roadways are safe for traffic.
- In an effort to provide timely and accurate information regarding the progress of this project a dedicated page has been created on the Village's website for project updates. Residents can access the page from the Village's homepage [www.chevy ChaseVillageMD.gov](http://www.chevy ChaseVillageMD.gov) by clicking on the "WSSC Water Main Replacement Project" link under the "News" tab.
- WSSC has informed me that the replacement of the Grafton Street water main will not be included in this current round of work. Due to the length of the Grafton Street water main and subsequent cost of the change order WSSC would be unable to modify its existing contract.
- Due to the contracting constraints, WSSC has informed me that in fiscal year 2013 they will begin the design and replacement process for both the Grafton Street and majority of the Hesketh Street water mains. As more information and timing becomes available I will provide further updates.
- The Grafton Street water main is the largest size main in the Village at 12-inches while the Hesketh Street water main is 8-inches in size, both water mains were installed 87 years ago.